



# **Beach Management Plans**

## **An Overview of State and Local Planning**

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# An Overview of Today

- **Beachfront Management Planning in SC**
  - **Beachfront Management Act**
  - **Local Beach Management Plans**
  - **State Beach Management Plan**
  - **Issues Affecting Planning (both kinds)**
  - **What We're Doing About It.**



# State Beachfront Management Act

- **Passed in 1988, amended in 1990**
  - **S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-250 *et seq.***
  - **Need for protection of beach/dune system.**
  - **established DHEC-OCRM jurisdiction and Baseline and Setback line.**
  - **“a long range comprehensive beach management plan is needed for the ... coast of South Carolina to protect and manage effectively the beach/dune system...”**



# State Beachfront Management Act

- **Established State policies for beach/dune management:**
  - **Protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the beach/dune system;**
  - **Promote wise use of the state's beachfront and gradual retreat from the system over a forty-year period;**
  - **Restrict the use of hard erosion control devices;**
  - **Promote carefully planned nourishment;**
  - **Preserve and enhance public access;**
  - **Post-storm emergency management guidelines.**

# State Beachfront Management Act

- **Also establishes a clear requirement for both regulations and for planning:**
  - **State Comprehensive Beach Management Plan (§48-39-320);**
  - **Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plans (§48-39-350).**
  - **Requires 18 beachfront counties and municipalities to prepare, in coordination with DHEC-OCRM, local comprehensive beach management plans containing, at a minimum, 10 required elements.**

# Local Beach Management Plans

- **Purpose**

- **To ensure that local decision-making is consistent with State goals and policies on the beachfront.**
- **To comprehensively analyze the issues, opportunities, and actions related to beachfront management.**
- **To document the beachfront conditions and management strategies of local communities to improve understanding by all parties.**

# Required Elements of §48-39-350

1. An inventory of **beach profile data** and historic **erosion rate data** provided by the department for each standard erosion zone and inlet erosion zone under the local jurisdiction;
2. An **inventory of public beach access** and attendant parking along with a **plan for enhancing public access** and parking;
3. An inventory of all **structures located in the area seaward** of the setback line;
4. An inventory of **turtle nesting and important habitats** of the beach/dune system and a protection and restoration plan if necessary;
5. A conventional **zoning and land use plan** consistent with the purposes of this chapter for the area **seaward of the setback line**;

# Required Elements of §48-39-350

6. An analysis of **beach erosion control alternatives**, including renourishment for the beach under the local government's jurisdiction;
7. A **drainage plan** for the area seaward of the setback zone;
8. A **post disaster plan** including plans for cleanup, maintaining essential services, protecting public health, emergency building ordinances, and the establishment of priorities, all of which must be **consistent with this chapter**;
9. A detailed **strategy for achieving** the goals of this chapter **by the end of the forty-year retreat period**. Consideration must be given to relocating buildings, removal of erosion control structures, and relocation of utilities; and
10. A detailed **strategy for achieving** the goals of **preservation of existing public access** and the enhancement of public access **to assure full enjoyment** of the beach **by all residents of this State**.

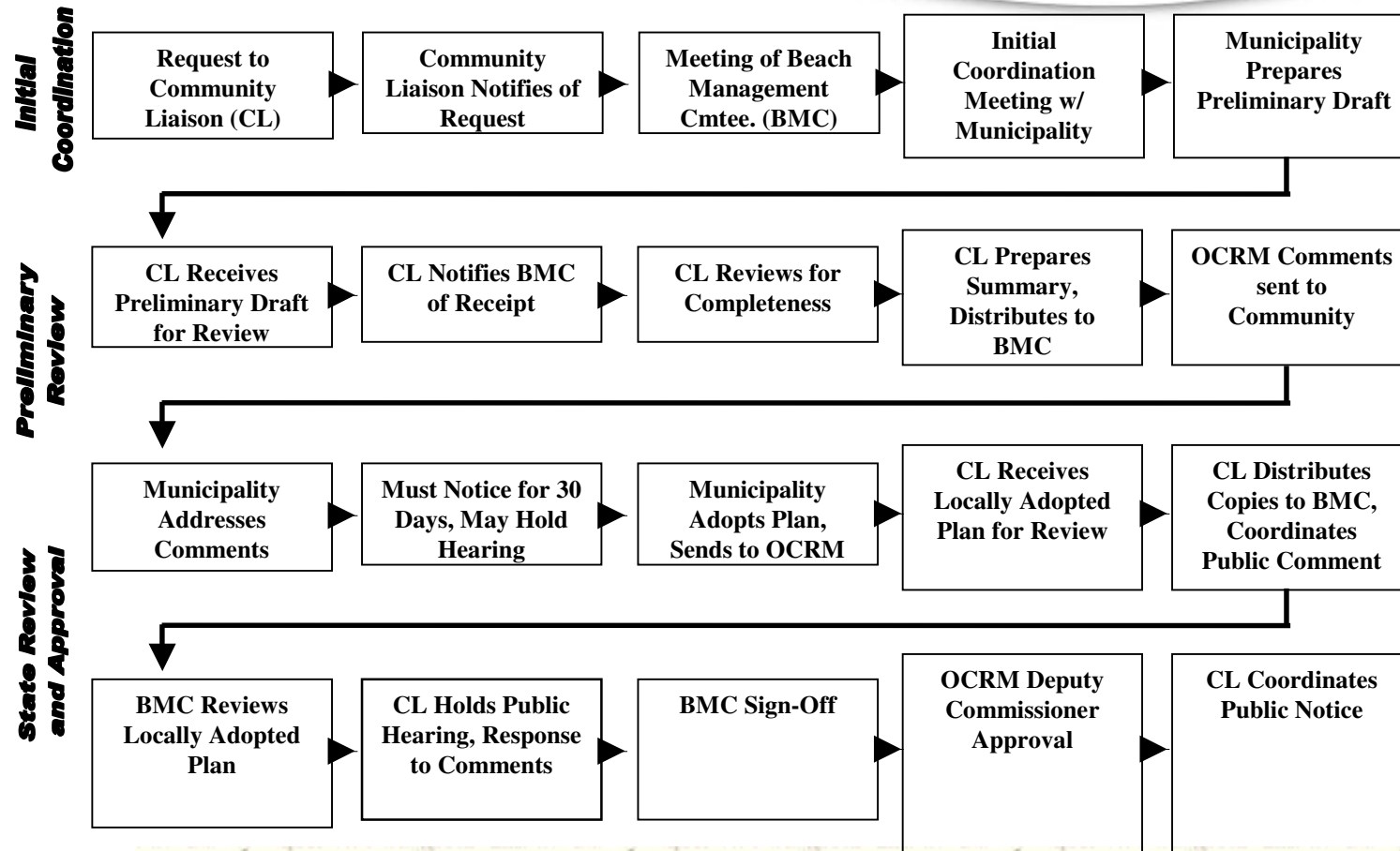


# Local Plan Approval Process

- **Steps in the State Approval Process**
  - **Coordination with Local Government;**
  - **Preliminary Review by DHEC-OCRM;**
  - **Local Adoption by Council;**
  - **State Review and Approval;**
  - **Public Notice of Approval;**
  - **Local Plan Implementation.**



# Local Plan Approval Process

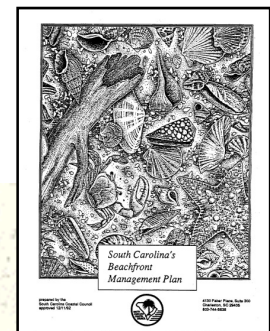


# Facts About Local Beach Plans

- **Communities with approved plans are eligible for public beach nourishment funds.**
- **If a community doesn't prepare or implement one, the state plan takes effect – no public funds.**
- **Local plans must be reviewed and updated every 5 years.**
- **Focuses on local governments' role in implementing State beach management policies.**

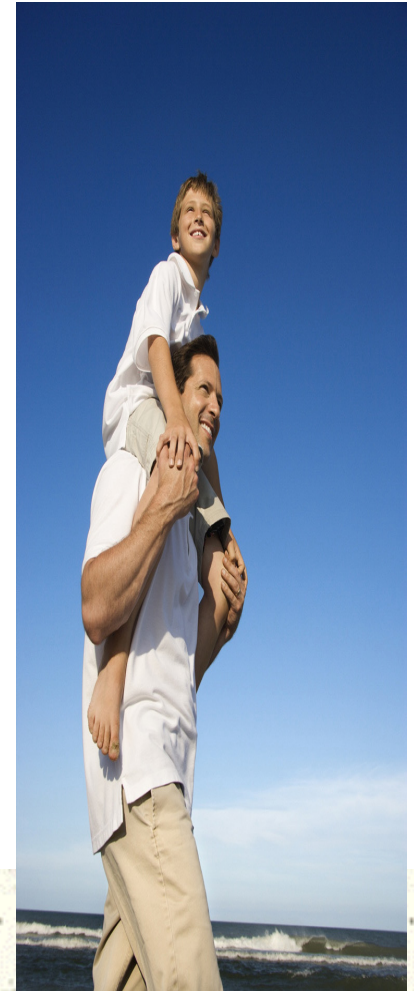
# State Beach Management Plan

- **Must Include the following:**
  - Development of a database to help make informed and scientifically based decisions;
  - Formulate recommendations for funding programs that may achieve the Beach Plan goals;
  - Develop public education program about beach and dune importance;
  - Assist local governments in developing the local plans;
  - Develop Guidelines, and coordinate implementation with appropriate agencies.



# Beach Planning: the intent

- Promote wise use of beachfront;
- Protect life and property with gradual retreat from the water;
- Conserve natural resources, species and habitats;
- Increase and preserve public access for the future.





# Beach Planning: the reality

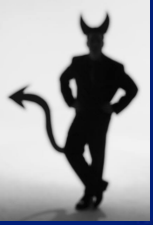


- **Many plans haven't been comprehensive;**
- **State review process wasn't formalized;**
- **Unclear what some plans accomplish;**
- **State beach management plan hasn't been recently updated;**

# Beach Planning: the reality



- **Lack of updated guidance from DHEC;**
- **Access: “Public” vs. “Community” vs. “Private”;**
- **Increasing public access and public parking;**
- **State regulations and retreat policy.**



# in the Details

- **Drainage Plan seaward of Setback Line**
  - Not defined in Statute, not explained in regulation (State Beach Management Plan);
  - Impacted by NPDES, MS4 designation?
- **Erosion Control Alternatives**
  - Including but not limited to beach nourishment;
  - Don't even really discuss planning for where and how beach nourishment will happen (or who will pay).

# in the Details

- **State Comprehensive Beach Management Plan**
  - Not revised since 1992 – largely out of date;
  - Currently in regulation (requires Assembly approval).
- **Zoning Seaward of Setback Line**
  - Many local governments are not aware that they can zone within OCRM beach jurisdiction or choose not to;
  - Zoning is a local decision outside of the State control.





# in the Details

- **Increasing Public Access**
  - Increasing public access is a challenge;
  - Large oceanfront lots are few and not cheap, and limited State of federal assistance available.
- **Beach Nourishment Funding**
  - Full and complete public access;
  - Permitting process for local governments;
  - Request for applications currently out.



# in the Details

- **40-Year Retreat**
  - Somewhat nebulous: is it a time, is it a distance?
  - Locals are required to consider relocation and removal of erosion structures, utilities, buildings;
  - Implementation at the State level is bound by statute and regulations;
  - Implementation is necessary at the Local level too.



# What We're Doing

- **Reviewing and Updating**
  - **Guidance to local governments preparing Local Beach Management Plan.**
  - **State Comprehensive Beach Management Plan.**
  - **Coordinating with 4 local governments on their local plans and preparing to work with 3 more.**
  - **Revising the baseline and setback lines, as per Statute.**
  - **Hosted Beachfront Mayors Listening Forum.**



## Interim Guidance for the Development of Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plans

### Introduction

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (DHEC-OCRM) is responsible for the management of the State's beachfront and coastal zone. The Beachfront Management Act, S.C. Code Ann. § 48-39-250 et seq., established a requirement in section 48-39-330 that ocean beachfront counties and municipalities must prepare local comprehensive beach management plans in coordination with DHEC-OCRM that contain ten key elements at a minimum. Once adopted by the community, local beach management plans are then submitted to DHEC-OCRM for review and State approval. The State is currently reviewing and updating the State Comprehensive Beach Management Plan, which provides guidance to and shapes local comprehensive beach management plans. DHEC-OCRM has prepared this interim guidance to assist communities preparing to revise their local comprehensive beach management plans while the State plan is being revised.

DHEC-OCRM is responsible for ensuring that beachfront communities develop, implement, and update their local beach management plans. However, DHEC-OCRM also seeks to ensure that the planning process does not unduly impact beachfront communities. That is why DHEC-OCRM appoints a planning staff member to serve as the Community Liaison and point of contact for the local government to provide technical planning assistance during the development and revision of local beach management plans.

In accordance with the State Beachfront Management Act, local beach management plans are required, at a minimum, to include the following ten elements:

1. an inventory of beach profile data and historic erosion rate data for each standard erosion zone and inlet erosion zone under the local jurisdiction;
2. an inventory of public beach accesses along with a plan for enhancing public

# Thanks for Your Input

